

Election

Applicants concur that the election of Group II claims was made without traverse in their Amendment of 12 Feb 2001.

35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 10-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for use of the phrase "general human relations environment".

Applicants process provides a method of detailing and analyzing the functions in claim 10 in parallel. It then provides the process for compiling that information into a comprehensive assessment of the current corporate business process. In claim 11, the process provides a method for conducting quality assurance audits of all the steps in the process individually and as a collective whole. This is described in applicants specification, as follows:

"A critical element of this stage is to ensure resources are assigned to transition management 136, both from the project implementation team 126 as well as from the client. During this stage the transition

activities required for a smooth migration from the old client process and system to the new service offering are modeled. The result is a detailed transition management plan that is specifically designed for the client. Stage 102 tasks and deliverables include the following:

- (1) Perform analysis on the client HR environment, including organization structure and relationships, labor relations, management, administration, and end user roles and responsibilities, and the general HR environment."
(where "HR" is a well-known abbreviation for "human resources" when used in this context. Specification, page 37, line 14 ff, emphasis added. See also, page 58, line 3.)

Applicants believe that this description is clear to those of skill in the art, request that the Examiner reconsider this rejection in light of the description provided in the specification and quoted above, and urge that claims 10 and 11 be allowed.

35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 4-6, 8, and 13-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Wong (U.S. Patent 6,115,690).

Applicants have amended claims 4, and 13-15 to clarify that the tasks being performed include "analyzing and adapting a legacy application to provide an adapted application customized to said customer". Claims 5-6, and 8 depend from claim 4. .

Wong teaches in a software set for conducting business on the Web. (See the summary, Columns 4-6). It does not provide the capability to analyze and re-engineer a current, or legacy, business process, and then propose changes based on that re-engineering. It also cannot be customized to fit the re-engineered processes.

The description of Wong's Figure 2, at Columns 11 and 12, does not described applicants' claimed "database of templates describing procedures for preparing a general procurement and accounts payable application" (emphasis added), but rather entry points to a common information base from various process points (Sales Support, Accounting,

Purchasing, Receiving, Assembly, and Shipping).

Applicants urge that claims 4-6, 8 and 13-15 be allowed.

35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 7 and 9-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wong in view of Reilly (presumably, U.S. Patent 5,842,193).

As previously discussed, claim 4 has been amended to clarify their invention relates to "analyzing and re-engineering a legacy application to provide a re-engineered application customized to said customer". Claims 7 and 9-12 depend from claim 4.

As discussed above, Wong does not provide the capability to analyze and re-engineer a current, or legacy, business process, and then propose changes based on that re-engineering. It also cannot be customized to fit the re-engineered processes.

Reilly provides a process for a company to privately

model its business using non-technical terms and inferred data and information. (See Col. 3, line 10) Because of this, it is not a tool capable of re-engineering the business process. On the other hand, applicants' process infers nothing but takes only factual information at a detail level that allows a business process offering to be re-engineered.

Neither Wong nor Reilly, nor their combination, teaches a system or process for analyzing and adapting (that is, re-engineering) a legacy application for a customer to produce an adapted (that is, re-engineered) application based upon templates describing procedures for a general procurement and accounts payable system, as claimed.

Applicants urge that claims 7 and 9-12 be allowed.

Conclusion

Applicants have attached "Version Showing Amendments" containing a set of claims showing the amendments made to the independent claims 4 and 13-15. All claims currently in the case are included for convenience.

Applicant urge that claims 4-15 be allowed.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conversation with applicant(s) attorney could possibly facilitate prosecution of the case, he may be reached at the number noted below.

Sincerely,

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By


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Version Showing Amendments

Claims 4 and 13-15 have been amended, as follows:

1 4. [Amended] A method for preparing a general procurement
2 and accounts payable application for a customer, comprising
3 the steps of:

4 maintaining a database of templates describing
5 procedures for preparing a general procurement and
6 accounts payable application; and

7 operating a plurality of web-enabled user terminals to
8 access via a server said database for coordinating
9 tasks by a plurality of enterprise teams implementing
10 said procedures;

11 said tasks including analyzing and adapting a legacy
12 application to provide an adapted application
13 customized to said customer.

1 5. The method of claim 4, each said template storing,
2 either directly or by way of links to other documents, one

3 or more instructions, flow charts, sample questionnaires,
4 report models and checklists for guiding, coordinating and
5 documenting the work of said enterprise teams.

1 6. The method of claim 5, said tasks including procedures
2 for setting up a customer specific application,
3 initializing detail planning, and modeling a plan for
4 making a transition from a legacy application of said
5 customer to a new application.

1 7. The method of claim 6, said tasks further including
2 procedures for assigning resources to transition
3 management functions from a project implementation team
4 and from said customer.

1 8. The method of claim 6, said tasks further including
2 procedures for modeling the transition from said legacy
3 application to said new application.

1 9. The method of claim 6, said tasks further including
2 procedures for preparing a transition management plan

3 specifically designed for said customer.

1 10. The method of claim 5, said tasks including procedures
2 for

3 performing analysis on the customer human relations
4 environment, including a plurality of the set including
5 organization structure and relationships, labor
6 relations, management, administration, end user roles
7 and responsibilities, and general human relations
8 environment;

9
10 developing and approving a detailed transition
11 management and communication plan;

12 updating a customer specific transition management
13 strategy; and

14 defining a quality assurance process.

1 11. The method of claim 10, said defining step further
2 including the steps of:

3 identifying quality assurance processes for auditing
4 during implementation of said application;

5 confirming and refining quality assurance standards
6 with said customer;

7 confirming that technical requirements can be met;

8 confirming that business and financial measurements can
9 be met;

10 confirming that required processes have been followed
11 during preparation of said application; and

12 establishing a quality assurance schedule for
13 development and deployment of said application.

1 12. The method of claim 5, said tasks including procedures
2 for generating a plurality of documents selected from the
3 set of documents including configuration standards, testing
4 strategy, production support and operations strategy,
5 accounting system management strategy, front end server
6 strategy, network computing strategy, and vendor conversion
7 strategy.

1 13. [Amended] A program storage device readable by a
2 machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions
3 executable by a machine to perform method steps for
4 preparing a general procurement and accounts payable
5 application, said method steps comprising:

6 maintaining a database of templates describing
7 procedures for preparing a general procurement and
8 accounts payable application;

9 operating a plurality of web-enabled user terminals to
10 access via a server said database for coordinating
11 tasks by a plurality of enterprise teams implementing
12 said procedures, each said template storing, either
13 directly or by way of links to other documents,
14 materials for guiding, coordinating and documenting
15 the work of said enterprise teams; said tasks including
16 analyzing and adapting a legacy application to provide
17 an adapted application customized to said customer.

1 14. [Amended] An article of manufacture comprising:

2 a computer useable medium having computer readable
3 program code means embodied therein for preparing a
4 general procurement and accounts payable application,
5 the computer readable program means in said article of
6 manufacture comprising:

7 computer readable program code means for causing a
8 computer to effect maintaining a database of templates
9 describing procedures for preparing a general
10 procurement and accounts payable application;

11 computer readable program code means for causing a
12 computer to effect operating a plurality of web-enabled
13 user terminals to access via a server said database for
14 coordinating tasks by a plurality of enterprise teams
15 implementing said procedures, each said template
16 storing, either directly or by way of links to other
17 documents, one or more instructions, flow charts,
18 sample questionnaires, report models and checklists for
19 guiding, coordinating and documenting the work of said
20 enterprise teams; said tasks including analyzing and
21 adapting a legacy application to provide an adapted
22 application customized to said customer.

1 15. [Amended] A computer program product or computer
2 program element for preparing a general procurement and
3 accounts payable application according to the steps
4 including:

5 maintaining a database of templates describing
6 procedures for preparing a general procurement and
7 accounts payable application;

8 operating a plurality of web-enabled user terminals to
9 access via a server said database for coordinating
10 tasks by a plurality of enterprise teams implementing
11 said procedures, said templates storing, either
12 directly or by way of links to other documents,
13 materials for guiding, coordinating and documenting the
14 work of said enterprise teams; said tasks including
15 analyzing and adapting a legacy application to provide
16 an adapted application customized to said customer.